

, 1, Yes, Yes

Field, FIN, No more data from Sender, "", 1
, 0, Off, Off
, 1, No more, No more data

Field, TCP Window, Receive Window Size, "", 16

Field, TCP Checksum, TCP Checksum for header and data, "", 16

Field, Urgent Pointer, Points to first octet following urgent data, "", 16

Includes

[0118] What is claimed and desired to be secured by United States Letters Patent is:

1. A method for describing the content of a data frame present on a communications network having a predetermined physical layer protocol, the method comprising the following steps:

providing a protocol definition file, the protocol definition file including: a first definition construct that defines the format of a data frame that is structured in accordance with the requirements of the predetermined physical layer protocol, and a second definition construct that defines a plurality of message protocol types;

storing the protocol definition file within a protocol database;

capturing a data frame present on the communications network;

identifying at least one protocol type of at least one message contained within the data frame from the plurality of message protocol types defined by the second definition construct; and

providing a description of the content of the captured data frame based upon the definitions of the first and the second definition constructs.